

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 MC-02 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /090 W

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R 170610Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2879

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0650

CAPE TOWN FOR AMEMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, XA, OAU, AO, NI

SUBJECT: NASCIMENTO RENEWS MILITARY AID REQUEST IN LAGOS; GARBA

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ALSO REMARKS ON ANGOLA

1. SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT IKEJA AIRPORT ON WAY BACK TO LUANDA FROM ADDIS, MPLA PRIME MINISTER LOPO DO NASCIMENTO CALLED FOR NIGERIA AND OTHER FRIENDLY AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE HIS REGIME WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ASSERTING THAT MPLA HAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO INTENSIFY ITS MILITARY ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO THE MPLA LEADER, ANGOLA HAS SUFFICIENT HUMAN RESOURCES TO FIGHT WAR BUT MPLA WILLING ACCEPT BOTH MEN AND MATERIAL FROM THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE RECOGNIZED NETO GOVERNMENT. NASCIMENTO SAID MPLA READY TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR PROGRESSIVE AND REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH OF AFRICA TO FIGHT FOR CAUSE OF ANTI-RACISM.

2. NASCIMENTO REGRETTED THAT, DESPITE PRESSURE 22 PRO-MPLA SUPPORTERS,

OAU WAS INCAPABLE COMING TO DEFINITE SOLUTION ANGOLAN PROBLEM. (I.E., BY RECOGNIZING MPLA). BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS AND NAMIBIANS SHOULD LEARN LESSON FROM SUMMIT, CONTINUED NASCIMENTO, THAT OAU NOT PREPARED MEET CHALLENGES POSED BY "RACIST SOUTH AFRICA." HE ALLEGED, HOWEVER, THAT REGIME NOT AS FORMIDABLE AS PEOPLE BELIEVE IT TO BE.

3. IN RELATED EVENT, FMG EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA, IN RADIO INTERVIEW IBADA, PROCLAIMED THAT MPLA GOVERNMENT NEEDED ONLY ONE MORE VOTE TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION AS ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT AND THUS BECOME, "WITHOUT FURTHER FORMALITY," OAU MEMBER. GARBA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WOULD "PIPE DOWN" AND COLLABORATE WITH MPLA GOVERNMENT IN INTEREST OF COUNTRY AS A WHOLE AFTER NETO REGIME SO LEGITIMATIZED.

4. COMMENT. NASCIMENTO AND GARBA REMARKS SHOW THAT PRESSURES ON AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS RECOGNIZE MPLA CONTINUE POST-SUMMIT. AGAIN LAGOS BEING USED AS MAIN PLATFORM FOR THIS CAMPAIGN. WE DO NOT KNOW YET WHAT NEW ASSISTANCE MPLA MAY HAVE REQUESTED FMG PROVIDE OR WHETHER NIGERIA WOULD SERIOUSLY ENTERTAIN PROPOSAL SEND TROOPS TO ANGOLA. LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS OF SUPPORTING MORE THAN TOKEN CONTINGENT WOULD BE FORMIDABLE. THERE IS NO QUESTION, HOWEVER, ABOUT STRONG CONTINUED NIGERIAN DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT FOR THE MPLA.
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